

BRUSSELS, March 13 (R)--The Common Market Commission is to provide finance totalling over \$11 million for various projects in North Africa and Middle East countries, and EEC statement said. A subsidy of \$4 million will go to various small technical cooperation projects in the Arab World, it said. Jordan will receive a special loan of \$5 million to grant credit to small farmers. Egypt will be given a grant of \$1.28 million for a programme to improve 26,100 hectares of salt marsh in the Hamuli district of the Nile Delta and another subsidy of \$675,000 for a study on improving farm storage installations. A subsidy of 685,000 will go to Tunisia for training staff at the national development office. Overall aid provided by the EEC under financial protocols signed with these countries is now almost \$20 million, the statement said.

Price: Jordan 50 fils; Syria 50 piastres; Lebanon 75 piastres; Saudi Arabia 1 riyal; UAE 1 dirham; Great Britain 25 pence.

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 13 (R)--President Carter's Middle East peace mission, buffeted in six days of non-stop negotiations, surged near to success tonight with Israeli predictions that a peace treaty with Egypt could be signed next week.

The weary president left Israel reporting substantial progress in the peace negotiations and declared that he had announced to President Awar Sadaat that he had accepted new American proposals for a Middle East settlement.

Israel's reaction was joy mixed with reservations.

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said the Egyptian acceptance of something he wholeheartedly approved. An example was the Camp David summit accords which roused bitter hostility from right wing nationalists.

On Sunday night the cabinet went into a late session which lasted until nearly dawn to discuss new Israeli proposals to be put to President Carter.

This meant there would be no boundary dividing Israel proper from the West Bank and Gaza territories it has occupied since 1967.

He said he would call a cabinet meeting tomorrow to debate the

The news broke about four hours after President Carter had flown out of Israel en route to Cairo, saying that problems still remained in his Middle East Peace conference.

Similarly, Mr. Begin said, there would be no pressure on the Knesset to pass the law.

West European countries tomorrow to inform them of the text of the treaty. Mr. Mubarak will also meet President Tito of Yugoslavia and Romanian

Mr. Begin said the American delegation had told him it would be difficult to persuade President Sadat to accept the latest proposal to accept the new decisions.

Carter phones optimism to Congressional leaders

At the same time Mr. Begin said two problems remain to be resolved before the old antagonists put their signatures on a treaty for

The president called Senate Democratic Leader Robert Byrd and House of Representatives Speaker Thomas (Tip) O'Neill

Mr. Beghin did not specify the two outstanding issues but he spoke as if a peace pact was just around the corner.

He said that under a formal agreement he would go to Cairo to sign an Arabic text while Egyptian President Anwar Sadat would come to Jerusalem to put his name on the declaration.

The dramatic announcement from Cairo capped 16 months of

negotiations in which the Americans, Egyptians and Israelis had struggled to find a formula palatable to two Middle East enemies trying to come to terms with the idea of peace.

In his talks with the Egyptian and Israeli leaders since last Thursday, President Carter constantly pressed them to make historic decisions for peace. Tonight

of Arabs, annexation of territories

laion authorities in Jerusalem and its environs was to alter and eventually obliterate the religious, historical and cultural character of the city, seemed to be aiming at the ultimate annexation of the occupied territories, including Jerusalem, in violation of one of its founding principles—the inadmissibility of the acquisition of others' territory by force.

Niaz Naik, the representative of Pakistan, said his country was closely watching the progress of

There could be no lasting peace in the region without Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab

The council must take measures to protect Jerusalem from "further devastation," he said.

Ambassador Hammond Al Chafetz of Syria said the council must take measures to protect Jerusalem from "further devastation," he said.

Their right to establish a sovereign state of their own under the leadership of their sole representative, the PLO," Mr. Naik said.

Turkey said the international community, and the Moslem people in particular, could not remain indifferent to developments which the occupation, it would have become an unwitting accomplice in the "Zionist scheme of expansion and annexation" in flagrant violation of the UN Charter, while the "usurpers have come from another continent and are trying to butcher and erase our existence."

Niaz Naik, the representative of Pakistan, said his country was closely watching the progress of President Carter's current Middle East peace initiative.

and without the restoration of the "legitimate and national rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to establish a sovereign state of their own under the leadership of the Palestinian people," to protect Jerusalem from "further devastation," he said.

Ambassador Hammoud Al Choufi of Syria said there were 27 Israeli settlements on the Golan Heights, and that the Israeli representative's "right to speak as a Semite."

"He is not a Semite. We, the victims, are the Semites," he said.

ple in particular, could not remain indifferent to developments which in the "Zionist scheme of expansion and annexation" in flagrant trying to butcher and erase our existence."

JORDAN TIMES

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Recipe for disaster

PRESIDENT CARTER said last night that he now had "all the main ingredients" for a peace treaty between Egypt and Israel.

From what we know of these ingredients, this is a recipe for disaster.

Egypt and Israel have obviously been mesmerised by the proposals which the great hypnotist from Washington has dangled before them on his dramatic personal initiative in the Middle East. This is good for him: his professional reputation as a "peacemaker" depends on a successful outcome from his high-risk personal intervention.

But while the Egyptians and Israelis may be prepared—even eager—to put their fates in the hands of the American faith-healer, it is the rest of us in the Middle East who will pay the consequences.

Let us leave aside for the moment the fact that the United States is engaged in an attempt to subdue the Middle East under a "pax Americana" of which Egypt and Israel would be the inseparable twin agents, with the aim of securing, once and for all, American interests in this region, namely: the survival and security of the state of Israel, the security of the flow of oil to the West from the Arabian Gulf and the elimination of another power, particularly the Russians, from a position of influence in this region.

Such matters of superpower tactics escape us by virtue of our mere incapacity to do anything about them.

But what must be recognised is that there is a bottom line over which this entire equation is formulated, and that is the undeniable right of the Palestinian people to self-determination on their own land. Whatever promises and guarantees may be contained in the American proposals which Egypt and Israel have now apparently accepted, this is the single, most important factor which is certain to be compromised—as it has been so often since 1917.

But this time it won't work. All along, throughout these dramatic past 18 months, the option has been open to those who would choose to define the future status of a people alienated and exiled from their own land, to deal with their basic demands within any reasonable and forthright political and diplomatic formulation. This option has been eschewed, in favour of a treacherous formulation which could serve only the interests of those who are willing, if not determined, to sink these fundamental national and historic aspirations forever, in hopes of gaining a quick advantage, a propitious economic windfall, an easy way out.

The counsels of reason and justice have exhausted their resources to common sense and historical inevitability. What were once proposals for the extinction of a crucial part of the Arab national heritage have become provocations aimed at the very heart of the Arab national existence. This has been done in collusion with the one sworn enemy of the Arab people, who has demonstrated, even in the course of this fragile diplomacy, its willingness to exterminate, to expropriate, to subjugate the very will of an entire nation, the Palestinians. Those who have colluded with them will pay a heavy price for this deadly deed.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARY

AL RA'I NOTES in its editorial Tuesday that the Utopian ideas which the Carter administration has entertained concerning the Palestinian cause since its early days in office vapourised in a puff of smoke Monday in the face of Israel's insistence that the Palestinian people do not have a home land and that Jerusalem is and shall remain the unified capital of Israel.

President Carter was shocked to learn in the Knesset Monday that Israel's interpretation of a comprehensive framework for peace differed radically from the idealistic notions he has been advocating ever since he entered the White House. These ideas had been politely circumvented at Camp David in the hope that a solution to the Palestinian problem could be found at some time in the future, for both Cairo and Washington felt that the Palestinian problem constituted only a minor aspect of the Middle East conflict. The paper wonders: How much longer will President Sadat stick by his own interpretation of a comprehensive framework for peace?

These who witnessed the force that was acted out in the Israeli Knesset Monday may have been unaware that a "separate peace settlement" has in fact been in existence since 1975 (when Sinai II was signed). It has been President Sadat's attempts to disguise this fact by securing signatures to an actual treaty and to disguise the fact that he was washing his hands of the Arab cause by linking the separate peace settlement to a comprehensive framework for peace that has aborted the U.S. president's mission in Israel, the paper says.

Israel, which has shunted the negotiations onto a track of its own choosing by stubbornly adhering to what it terms the Hebrew version of the Camp David agreements, has now shunted the negotiations onto the track it wants, Al Ra'i adds.

President Carter's visit to Egypt and Israel, which should have come much earlier anyway, will not satisfy Egypt's expectations of what a separate peace treaty will mean.

The fact that the Arabs have shown they do not possess the wherewithal to stop the three Camp David partners from doing what they want is all the justification that the United States, Egypt and Israel need to do what they please, either collectively or separately, to alter the factors in the equation of the Middle East crisis.

The Arabs must now shoulder their responsibilities courageously. Al Ra'i concludes, for what is now at stake is not only the Palestinian cause but the entire future of the Arabs and the map of the region as a whole.

AL DUSTOUR says that the time has come for the Arabs to put into effect the strategy joint action they agreed on at the Baghdad summit: they must not wait to see what the partners to the Camp David agreements will do before acting.

It would appear, the paper says, that Egypt and Israel are on the threshold of signing a peace treaty which has been in the works for some time. The important thing is not whether it is signed immediately or following some dramatic diplomatic sleight of hand. The important thing is that the Arabs adhere to a strategy that will secure their rights and lead to a comprehensive and just peace.

They should not lash out at Egypt in angry retaliation, although they might well impose sanctions on Egypt as agreed at Baghdad. Nevertheless, the essential thing is not to react but to act, nor need such action be linked with whether a peace treaty is signed or not.

Jordan has made it clear that the Arabs cannot afford to wait and must act independently. It has already taken action by bringing a complaint against Israel's policy in the occupied territories before the Security Council.

The Arabs must go ahead with the plans they have formulated at Baghdad, and not look around for a new strategy: they already have a plan of action. This means that each Arab state must discharge its obligations, as it is committed to do, Al Dustour concludes.



Polish Minister of State for Planning Mr. M. Wirovski, (second from right) visits The Royal Scientific Society Tuesday.

Polish minister meets with Jordanian Cabinet members

AMMAN, March 13 (J.T.)—The visiting Polish Minister of State for Planning, Mr. M. Wirovski, met with four Jordanian Cabinet members here today following his talks yesterday with His Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

The first official round of economic talks between Jordan and Poland began at the National Planning Council later today. The two sides were headed respectively by NPC President Hanna Odeh and Mr. Wirovski.

Dr. Odeh spoke of the duties of the NPC and the formulation, financing implementation and fol-

low up of development plans in Jordan. He expressed the hope that Poland's contribution to Jordan's development projects would increase.

The Polish minister outlined the main features of economic planning in Poland. He said that this relies on either long-term five-year plans or short-term one-year plans which are the responsibility of the Polish planning council.

Mr. Wirovski's visit is at the invitation of the National Planning Council and follows up the visit by Crown Prince Hassan to Poland last year.

The visiting minister and the Crown Prince discussed yesterday Jordanian-Polish economic relations and reviewed cooperation in the fields of agriculture and electricity. Poland is already involved in a project for bringing electricity to rural areas of Jordan. They also explored the possibility of launching a joint glass industry in Jordan.

Mr. Wirovski today met with Minister of Industry and Commerce Nijmeddin Dejjani with whom he discussed ways of boosting trade exchange between Jordan and Poland.

The Polish minister also discussed with the Minister of Agriculture Hikmat Al Saket prospects of Jordanian-Polish cooperation in the field of agriculture, particularly agricultural cooperatives. The visiting minister heard a briefing on Jordan's agricultural projects and outlined to Mr. Saket Poland's irrigation projects and methods used in the production of crops.

Later Mr. Wirovski called on Minister of Tourism Ghaleb Barakat and Minister of Public Works Sa'id Bino to discuss bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism and prospects of cooperation between the two countries in road construction.

The Polish minister also visited the Royal Scientific Society and met with its director, Dr. Albert Butros today. He was briefed on the society's history and activities.

The visiting Polish Minister is scheduled to meet with Minister of Labour Isam Ajlouni.

British ambassador expresses sorrow over explosion to Premier Badran

The following message was sent to Prime Minister Mudar Badran on Tuesday by the British ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Alan B. Urwick.

I heard with great personal sadness of the tragic accident which occurred yesterday near the town of Naur.

The loss of life on this occasion

has come as a great shock to all friends of the Jordanian people, and I should be grateful if you would convey on behalf of this embassy and of Her Majesty's Government, our deepest sympathy to the families of all those who have been killed and also to those who were injured in this tragedy.

WHAT'S GOING ON

Photo Exhibit

The French Cultural Centre is displaying a photo exhibit on "80 Years of French Cinema" during regular hours.

French Documentary

The French Cultural Centre presents the fifth in a series of documentaries on the French cinema entitled "De Munich a La drole de guerre." The film is at 6:00 p.m.

BBC T.V. Film

The British Council presents the BBC's television production of Shakespeare's "Macbeth" directed by John Gornie and stars Eric Porter and Janet Suzman. The film starts at 6:30 p.m.

Cookery Demonstration

The YWCA is holding a cookery presentation of the North African dish, Mughrabiyya. The wife of the Algerian ambassador, Mrs. Aisha Al-Aadid, will be demonstrating the dish, including how to make the basic mughrabiyya ingredient. The presentation is at 10:30 a.m., and the price of the ticket includes refreshments, the recipe and a sample of the dish demonstrated.

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ECONOSCOPE

War and Peace and the economics of politics

By Jawad Ahmad

I AM NOT VERY fond of politics, but how could anybody escape the violent political events that are occurring in the world these days? So much is taking place. Man is killing his fellow man with abandon while demographers worry about family planning.

China is attacking Vietnam and thousands are being killed and others evacuated from their homes. The reason is because China wants to teach Vietnam a lesson. It certainly is an expensive one.

War is also spreading throughout the African continent. There is one inside Chad. Eritrea is fighting for independence from Ethiopia. Rhodesia is involved in its own kind of war, into which Mozambique has been dragged a fourth war is being fought in Namibia, a fifth in the Sahara, a sixth between Uganda and Tanzania and a guerrilla war is being fought along the borders of Zaïre (Shaba province). Zambia is also getting its share. Nor is the above list exhaustive.

However, the paramount event right now is the peace negotiations which are taking place in the Middle East. Given the above warlike background, peace in the Middle East may deceptively seem to be a light at the end of a deep tunnel. Is this so?

A fragile peace would not resolve anything. There is a war between the two Yemens which could prove to be a time bomb for the whole area. The war in Lebanon goes on and on without a glimmer of hope that the end may be near. How is the peace between Egypt and Israel going to solve all of these problems?

Mrs. Sadat told Barbara Walters in a televised

interview that her husband wants to end his occupation with the problem of securing a treaty in order to direct his attention to economic development of Egypt. That is fine. Why should the peace treaty be a pre-emptive economic salvation? Is it because aid is expected to flow into Egypt from the peace-loving Arabs? potential donors so keen on economic welfare, or are they really investing their own benefit? What will the price of peace be? And who is really going to pay?

Mr. Carter's visit to the Middle East has been described as a bold attempt on the part of the American president to improve his image in the coming presidential election by taking a calculated risk, or is he gambling? This still remains to be seen.

Whether war or peace prevails, the winners will be the winners. They always are in an irrational world. But Mr. Carter's visit to Egypt invokes certain historical precedents, some recent, others ancient.

Only recently Mr. Nixon went to Egypt to take the same train trip and was accompanied by Mr. Walter Cronkite. Well, the American press turned against Mr. Nixon not long after the trip.

In mid-March, 44 B.C., the victorious Caesar was stabbed to death in the Roman Forum. This was not long after his return from where he had left a wife and son.

It is mid-March 2023 years after that assassination. Will the Jacksons and Chus the American Separate make good the economic promises extended to Egypt by Mr. Carter? Well, we do not know. Is worth waiting to see what happens.

Foreign companies bid to solve Amman's transportation problem

By Alan Martiny
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 13— Hoping to find solutions to some of Amman's nagging traffic problems, the National Planning Council in conjunction with the Amman Urban Regional Planning Group and the Amman Municipality has shortlisted ten foreign firms to study the Amman urban region and submit technical and financial proposals on how to tackle the region's transportation problems.

Ten firms were selected from about 100 which made offers. Mr. Khaled Bourint, Chief Engineer for the Amman Urban Regional Planning Group, told the Jordan Times today. The ten firms will submit their studies on March 15 and the selection of the

best one should take place by early April.

The studies deal with the Amman urban region which includes the Amman and Balqa governorates. This extends from the Jordan River in the west to 30 kms. east of Amman and from the Zarqa River in the north to the Wala River in the south. The area contains 18 municipalities and 90 human settlements and consists of about 5,000 square kms.

The shortlisted firms—five British, three American, one West German and one Japanese—will now submit rough estimates of their proposals; methodology and recommendations for financing. The selected company will then take about six months to complete the detailed study.

"In order to get the appropriate solutions to the problems we face," Mr. Bourint said, "the selected firm will be provided with information on existing land use, existing human settlements and the relationship between different activities in the region. Development strategies will also be made known to the firm to support the study."

The company will work closely with the Amman Urban Regional Planning Group in deciding on what types of surveys should be conducted, he noted. "One survey which is badly needed is an origin and destination survey. This survey determines the amount of traffic generated at all points in the area."

The study should also questions relating to the side of the proposals, and the government can fit projects, whether through tax, or some other means.

"We hope this study, wide as it is, with solutions, major problems with transportation system," Mr. said, "especially the problem of public transport, the problem of congestion in Amman."

The firm's study will suggest new highways, roads, parking, facilities, make recommendations upgrading the network, public transport system, may suggest the ren of the present system or ment of an entirely new

But which projects adopted is another matter. study will mainly give us for projects which cannot be financed by the municipalities. The National Planning was responsible for the study and will select the carry out the study. The Urban Regional Planning will act as a steering committee the firm throughout the phase. The municipalities Amman will app representatives on a technical committee for selecting the projects and proposals.

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1. Name, address, country and date of incorporation and type of firm.
2. Name of principals and key employees of firm, including professional specialties.
3. Number of white cement factories that were built by the firm in the past, their location, process, capacity, date of commencement of project and date of completion. How many of these projects were contracted on a "Turn-Key" basis? and what was their cost and capacity?
4. Name of clients of these factories and their addresses.
5. Is the firm currently involved in cement manufacturing or cement-plant machinery?
6. Is the firm, at present, involved in the construction of any white cement factories? How many? Where are they, and when are they expected to be completed?
7. Does the firm intend to carry-out such contract jointly with other firms? Which are these firms? And what is their specialty? Process know-how: engineering, supply, erection and civil works...etc?
8. The firm is to provide information on its Financial Statements as well as names of banks for reference.
9. Any further useful information which will demonstrate the degree of qualification.

Replies and related supporting information should be submitted not later than Sunday 12:00 noon, 15 April, 1979 to:-

**The General Manager,
Syrian-Jordanian Co. For Industry
P.O.Box 925411, Amman,
JORDAN**

**K.A. NAJDAMI
GENERAL MANAGER**

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National News Roundup...

January traffic accident casualties reach 916

AMMAN, March 13 (JNA)—Casualties resulting from road accidents during last January reached 916 of which 26 were fatal, a spokesman for the Directorate of Public Security said here today. The figures, he said, indicate an increase of 33 per cent over January figures of 1978. The spokesman attributed the increase in traffic accidents to the vast increase in the number of cars and urban population growth as well as the absence of modern roads to accommodate such increases.

Contaminated food confiscated in Madaba

AMMAN, March 13 (JNA)—Inspectors from Standards and Measures Directorate today confiscated quantities of contaminated canned food in the city of Madaba. The directorate called on all merchants and shopkeepers in the city to make certain that food sold to the public is fit for consumption and that the expiration date on canned food has not lapsed. A search campaign by the directorate is underway to ensure that standards and measures regulations are properly carried out throughout the country.

Egypt Air ups Amman-Cairo flights to 10

AMMAN, March 13 (JNA)—Egypt Air is increasing its number of weekly flights between Cairo and Amman from six to ten effective April 1. Egypt Air director manager in Amman Samir Qadri told the Jordan Times today.

The decision to add the extra flights was made because there are more people who want to travel

Between the two capital cities than the airline can easily accommodate. It now shuttles 300-500 daily, depending on the type of aircraft available each day. If the Airbus is in use, besides a Boeing 707, an additional 200 passengers can be transported.

Egypt Air was almost routinely adding an extra flight certain days to keep pace with demands. Beginning April 1, these additional flights will be put permanently on the schedule.



Mr. Samir Qadri

TODAY'S WEATHER

Weather will be fair with a chance of showers in the eastern part of the country. Winds will be northwesterly light to moderate. In Amman, July winds will be northerly moderate and seas will be calm.

Overnight minimum	Daytime maximum
3	15
10	25
9	20
5	20

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Amman Players open 'Candied Peel' today

By Thomas Cronwell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN, March 13—“I was just wondering whether you sent that poisoned stuff to J. Underley,” says Monk easily.

“It that is intended to be humorous, it is in the worst possible taste,” retorts Busby angrily. So runs part of a heated discussion between two of J. Underley's weekend guests. They have been invited, as their host explains, to give him a chance to find out which of them had sent him a certain box of candied peel his favourite sweet. The “taste” referred to in the conversation had been “bad” enough to kill his dog who, luckily, for Mr. Underley, had got to the delicacies before he had had a chance to.

The same “Candied Peel” is also responsible for the title of the play written by Tarkland J. Croy, the fourth to be produced by the Amman Players, called the Amman Players. Opening night is Wednesday, 8:00 p.m. at the Jordan Theatre on Jabal Lubdah.

Only half of the cast of 12 have ever acted before but under the experienced direction of Mrs. Kitty Ephgrave, a very entertaining production has been put together.

The plot is something of an Agatha Christie “Murder on the Orient Express” type mystery in “Candied Peel” however, the intended victim is fortunate

enough to escape the death trap set for him and hence is free to be his own Hercule Poirot. He lays his own trap by inviting all possible suspects to join him for a “most important” weekend. He then simply has to determine who the culprit is.

All the guests are treated with the utmost courtesy. Drinks and candied peel (free of arsenic) are pressed on them between delicious meals. They all begin to realize, however, that they are caught up in something serious when a Scotland Yard detective arrives on the second day. Why did Underley call him?

Well, you will have to see the play to get the answer.

The play keeps your interest with its twists in plot and the sharp conversation of its characters. A lot of the play's fun comes from the interchanges between the guests as each tries to pin the blame on another. Says Lucy: “If the attempted murder seems to amuse you, I don't think there's anything funny in anyone trying to poison Mr. Underley.” Rising, with a sudden change in his voice, Monk shouts back, “Well, why did YOU try to?”

“Candied Peel” was chosen by Mrs. Ephgrave because it has a large cast and therefore could make use of most of the company members. “This is important, especially with a new company,” Mrs. Ephgrave told the Jordan Times today. The play has only been produced professionally once, by the Northampton Repertory Players in 1944.

Each play put on by the Amman Players is for a particular charity. Previous recipients have been the Queen Alia Fund, the American Women of Amman and the Cerebral Palsy Foundation. This time the society for the deaf at Salt is to benefit. They are hoping to receive a commercial refrigerator and a manual washing machine.

According to Mrs. Ephgrave, tickets at JD 1 each, are selling well. The last play, “Went Until Dark”, produced last October, had a successful three-day run. The present production looks like it's going to hit the Jordan Theatre all four nights. The Amman Players pay no rent for the theatre but do have to pay for all other production costs with the income from ticket sales.

Mrs. Ephgrave herself has been involved in theatre since 1911 when she began working with Grace Fields. In 1961 she left England to accompany her daughter whose husband was posted by his company first to Lagos, Nigeria and later to other countries including Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Baghdad and then Jordan again, in 1977.

In every city in which Mrs. Ephgrave has lived, she has always organised theatre activities. At 74, she is still full of energy and quite able to direct a largely untrained company to put on a very enjoyable play, as “Candied Peel” amply proves.

The next play the company will do hasn't been selected yet but the Save the Children Fund has already requested the players to assist it with a benefit production.

People ...in the news

That genial and distinguished gentleman who burst into song at the festive table in the Jordan International Hotel's Crown Rotisserie on Friday night, to the accompaniment of a smiling violinist and accordionist, was none other than Romanian Ambassador to Jordan Vasile Gindila. To mark the kick-off of Romanian cultural week at the hotel—the International in Jordan week—Mr. Gindila invited a few lucky guests to share the delights of Romanian music, wine and cuisine.

process was as impeccable as his hospitality.

Ambassador Gindila, who with five years' service in Amman is the vice-dean of the Diplomatic Corps here, discovered that more than 100 Romanians from Jordan than from any other Arab country. It is not hard to see why.

A recent visitor to Amman was Mr. Peter E. Hutson, chairman of the British Bank of the Middle East. During his three-day stay, he met officials including Minister of Finance Muhammad Dabbas and Central Bank Governor Sa'id Nabulsi. He expressed the hope that the BBME would continue to contribute towards the development of trade and industry in Jordan.

Coming & Going

Arab maritime academy head ends Amman visit.

AMMAN, March 13 (JNA)—Director general of the Arab academy for maritime transport Dr. Jamal Mukhtar left Amman today at the end of a three-day visit to Jordan. During his visit he held meetings with officials at the Ministry of Transport dealing with the activities of the academy and its future plans and training programme. He said before departure that his talks with Jordanian officials also dealt with Jordan's need for trained seamen and subjects connected with the academy's board meetings to be held in Aqaba on Oct. 8. Seven Arab states hold membership of the academy, which, since its establishment in 1972 has received their support in addition to an estimated \$3.6 million in technical aid from the United Nations. Dr. Mukhtar said. The academy turns out qualified technicians, maritime engineers and seamen to work on Arab ships.

Civil aviation director to chair meeting in London

AMMAN, March 13 (JNA)—Civil Aviation Director General Sharif Ghazi Rakan will leave for London tomorrow to chair the Arab airports conference which is to start there on March 15. Taking part in the three-day conference will be directors of civil aviation departments in Arab states as well as representatives of regional and international specialised organisations. They will be discussing a number of subjects dealing with safety measures and modern facilities used at airports.

LOCAL EXCHANGE RATES

U.S. dollar	297.00/299.00
U.K. Sterling	608.00/610.00
West German mark	159.9/160.9
Swiss franc	177.3/178.4
French franc	69.4/69.8
Italian lire	352.35/4
Japanese yen	144.2/145.1
Dutch guilder	158.1/149
Belgian franc	100.9/101.5
for every cent	68.1/68.5
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AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE REPORT

NAME OF COMPANY	Par Value	Volume Traded	Last Buying Offer	Last Selling Offer	Closing Price
Jordan Petroleum Co.	JD 5,000	2,003	6,930	6,950	6,950
Housing Bank	JD 1,000	575	1,150	1,160	1,150
Jordan-Citibank	JD 1,000	2,184	1,040	1,060	1,040
Dar Aldawa Development and Investment Co.	JD 1,000	1,136	2,400	—	2,400
General Mining Co.	JD 1,000	920	—	0,940	0,920
Jordan Electricity Co.	JD 1,000	2,997	1,340	1,350	1,350
Arab Aluminum Co.	JD 1,000	351	0,940	0,950	0,950
Industrial, Commercial And Agricultural Co.	JD 1,000	137	2,580	—	2,600
Arab Bank	JD 10,000	4,515	6,570	7,800	6,500
Chubb-Amman Bank	JD 5,000	1,318	—	6,650	2,000
General Insurance	JD 1,000	886	—	—	2,000
Arab International Hotels Co.	JD 1,000	142	0,700	0,730	0,710
Garage Owners Federation Office	JD 1,000	1,026	4,650	—	4,650
Arab Chemical Detergents	JD 1,000	545	1,090	—	1,090

Total volume traded, Tuesday, March 13: JD 19,335

Total number of shares traded: 8,735

	Par Value	Volume Traded	Number Traded	Year of Maturity	Selling Price
Government Development Bonds	JD 10,000	2,323	230	1987	10,100
	JD 10,000	162	16	1988	10,180

Total volume traded: JD 2,485

Total number of bonds traded: 246

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Man and beast build canal

by Narendra Aggarwal

NEW DELHI—India's Rajasthan Canal Project, one of the largest canal systems in the world, is on its way to transforming a part of the world-famous Thar desert, lying desolate for centuries, into a land of plenty and prosperity.

Rajasthan State in western India, bordering with Pakistan, has an area of 34 million hectares of which 37 per cent is desert. Forests cover 1.5 million hectares of the state, and 14.3 million hectares are under rainfed crops. Only about 2.1 million hectares are irrigated, 55 per cent from dug wells, 35 per cent from a public canal system and 10 per cent from tanks or reservoirs. The mighty Rajasthan Canal will irrigate a further 2 million hectares, enabling the production of an additional 3 million tonnes of food crops and 3.5 million tonnes of fodder for the state's precious cattle.

This area has no rivers, rainfall is poor, humidity is extremely low and sandstorms are an almost daily occurrence. There is almost no vegetation. The subsoil water table varies from 50 to 80 metres below ground and, in most areas when water is obtained it is brackish, unfit for irrigation and human consumption.

The search for water to transform the great Thar desert into lush fields and luxuriant orchards took concrete shape soon after India's independence in 1947. In 1951-53 the foundation of the Rajasthan Canal was laid with the construction of the Harike Headworks in the northern water-rich state of Punjab. The preparation of the estimates for the project was undertaken by the Central Water and Power Commission. After surveying the area in 1951, it recommended the construction of the Rajasthan Canal from the Harike Headworks up to Jaisalmer in Rajasthan.

At this stage, negotiations had also started with Pakistan for the utilization of the Indus river waters. Finally, in 1960, the Indus Water Treaty was signed under the aegis of the World Bank which entitled India to free use of the waters of the Ravi, Beas and Sutlej rivers. The Rajasthan Canal is a venture to utilize this water to provide irrigation to vast areas.

The Rajasthan Canal, with a full capacity of 523.8 cumecs (cubic metres per second) at head, will be 449 kilometres long when completed and have a 7000 km long distribution system to serve a cultivable area of 1.5 million hectares. The intensity of irrigation of the project is 110 per cent. The main canal and the distribution system are being lined with burnt clay tiles laid in cement mortar to minimize the water losses. The project is expected to cost Rs 4000 million (approximately US\$500 million).

Stage one of the canal, with a cultivable command area of over half a million hectares, is almost complete. It includes 204 kilometres of feeder canals 40 metres wide, and 189 kilometres of main canal with a distribution system spread over 3000 kilometres. With the opening of more than half a million hectares of land for irrigation, the Rajasthan Canal, once a dream, has become a reality. No other irrigation project in the country has opened such vast areas for food production, developed large areas of desert, created immense job possibilities and effectively arrested the march of the desert.

A Command Area Development Project for Stage one provides the necessary physical works and agriculture supporting services to enable a full realization of the benefits from irrigation. At present it covers 200,000 hectares and includes lining 915 kilometres of distributary canals, constructing 430 kilometres of roads as well as water supply systems for 100 villages, developing pastures, and the afforestation of 35,000 hectares of high shifting sand dunes adjacent to the irrigated areas.

Farm development work includes lining 58,000 kilometres of water courses, land shaping 32,000 hectares and the reclamation of 17,000 hectares. The farmers will be helped to develop a further 26,000 hectares, reclaim 17,000 hectares and improve their on-farm irrigation channels. The total cost of these programs is Rs 1390 million (US\$173.8 million), and a World Bank credit of \$85 million has been secured.

Stage two of the project, which has already been started, will see the completion of the Rajasthan Main Canal from its 189th kilometre to the end, and will include digging 4000 kilometres of branches, distributary canals and minor canals to irrigate 0.76 million hectares. Broad outlines are also presently being worked out for the development of the remaining 340,000 hectares. (I.D.R.C. Feature)



Seven hundred camels carts move sand in the Thar Desert



Stage two of the canal will irrigate 2 million hectares

horticultural collection and research benefits production

LENINGRAD -- There are more than 250 thousand seed samples in the collection at the horticultural research institute in Leningrad. The CMEA Standing Committee on agriculture appointed the institute to co-ordinate the problem of collection, preservation and study of the world's floral resources. Soviet scientists and their colleagues from socialist countries study samples of seeds collected by expeditions, select the best and thus create more productive varieties of agricultural crops. The institute exchanges seeds and plants with research institutes of CMEA member-states, as well as carries out joint research and experimental work. (TASS)



Student Pyotr Streichenko prepares hot-house grown rye seed research



Agronomist Irina Terentyeva selects seed samples for experimentation

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German politician's secretary defects from West to East

BONN, March 13 (R)—The woman secretary of a West German opposition leader, Mr. Kurt Biedenkopf, has defected to East Germany, police sources said today.

Miss Christel Broszky, 32, is the second secretary employed by leading conservative politicians to flee to East Germany within the last few days.

Yesterday a spokesman for West Germany's federal prosecutor said a probe had started into the activities of another woman secretary who fled to East Germany at the weekend.

Mrs. Inge Goliath, 37, and her husband Wolfgang, 44, were being investigated on suspicion of spying, he said. The East German news agency ADN said at the weekend that the Goliaths had asked for political asylum.

Mrs. Goliath described herself as personal assistant of Dr. Werner Marx, foreign policy spokesman of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), it said. A spokesman for Mr. Biedenkopf, deputy CDU chairman, said Miss Broszky had not appeared at work this week.

Yesterday security sources said Mrs. Goliath and her husband, a furniture salesman, might have taken flight after the arrest last week of another spy suspect at

CDU headquarters. Miss Ursula Hoels, 35, is accused of having supplied the East Germans with documents and information gained in her work.

U.K. plan calls for women soldiers to carry own arms

LONDON, March 13 (R)—Britain's women soldiers will be trained to shoot to kill and, for the first time, will regularly carry arms, under plans now being finalised.

The Defence Ministry today said an announcement on arming women in the army and in the air force could be expected to be made soon. Britain did not arm servicewomen even in the grimest days of World War Two.

Some politicians, however, say they will oppose the present scheme, which has been fiercely debated among military chiefs for

two years. Arming women is not a concession to demands by women's liberation groups, the Defence Ministry insists. It says it simply wishes to ensure that women, in operational areas or at risk from guerrilla attack, can defend themselves.

"At present, for instance, women drivers and signallers have men guards assigned to them. Arming the women would free the men for other duties," a spokesman said.

A total of 5,700 women serve in the army and 5,400 in the air force. The 3,900 "wrens"—members of the Women's Royal Naval Service—will not be armed. They do not serve outside secure shore bases and Britain's admirals remain opposed to changing their non-combatant role.

Some members of Parliament said they would press for a government statement. "I am opposed to it," said right-wing conservative Mr. Neville Trotter. "I believe in chivalry in war."

But Labour parliamentarian Mr. Arthur Latham said: "I am all for sex equality. I would rather that men and women of all nationalities did not carry arms at all, but if women are in the armed services I see no reason why they should not be armed."

EEC considers prices appeal to oil exporters

PARIS, March 13 (R)—Common Market leaders today considered an appeal to oil exporting nations to keep prices in check this year to avoid damaging the world economy, informed sources said.

The sources said the Community leaders would set a ceiling on oil imports over the next few years. The commission has recommended a figure of 500 million tonnes a year by 1985.

Common Market experts believe that unless the upward speculative pressure on oil prices is checked, producer countries could take this as evidence that further permanent price increases can be imposed.

OPEC oil ministers are meeting in Geneva on March 26. Last December, they ordered a staged increase in prices of 14.5 per cent.

The commission has warned the two-day summit here that even if OPEC does not decree a significant extra price increase at its next meeting, but opts for speedier implementation of the rises already decided, this could push up the oil bill of the Common Market by a further \$2 billion in 1979.

Community experts calculated that every extra dollar charged by OPEC per barrel of oil on top of present official prices would add \$3.6 billion to the Common Market's annual oil bill, add 0.3 per cent to inflation and take 0.4 per cent off economic growth.

Since Iran's oil flow stopped last December, prices for petroleum products went up by 70 per cent on the spot market, which accounts for about one twentieth of community oil consumption, these sources said. The spot market is in oil not already contracted for by the high oil companies.

Meanwhile, the Common Market will charter transport planes to fly essential supplies to two land-locked African countries, cut off by the fighting between Tanzania and Uganda, French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet said last night.

Mr. Francois-Poncet said the planes would shift about \$4.6 million worth of goods to Rwanda and Burundi, whose road and rail links with east African ports have been disrupted.

The Common Market Commission had been instructed to organise the operation, Mr. Francois-Poncet said. "It would be over-dramatising to describe this as an airlift. It is just a matter of chartering a few aircraft to pick up loads that are held up," he added.

He was briefing correspondents on talks between Common Market foreign ministers attending the nine-nation summit here.

Rwanda and Burundi are concerned that their vital coffee crop could be stranded after the harvest in May and want European countries to help fly it out.

Mr. Francois-Poncet said the foreign ministers concentrated on southern Africa, expressing their disapproval of the April 20 elections called by Rhodesian Leader Ian Smith.

They agreed that the nine should keep up sanctions against Rhodesia and backed British-American efforts to find a solution acceptable to all parties.

They were preoccupied with the situation in Namibia (South West Africa) and expressed the hope that a United Nations-sponsored meeting next week between the parties concerned would be a positive step towards a peaceful solution.

Omani opposition claims Egypt has replaced Iranian soldiers

BEIRUT, March 13 (R)—An organisation opposed to the rule of Sultan Qaboos bin Said of Oman said in Beirut yesterday that Egypt had sent between 5,000 and 7,000 soldiers to the sultanate to replace Iranian troops.

A spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Oman told a press conference that the movement reserved the right to "resist this military intervention through all means, including armed resistance."

Egypt has denied sending

troops to Oman to replace the Iranians recalled by the new rulers in Tehran. Last week, Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali said in an interview published in Beirut that no decision had been taken on dispatching troops to the sultanate.

Mr. Mohammad Abdullah Hussein, a member of the front's executive committee in charge of foreign relations, said Egyptian soldiers had been deployed at Hahra, Sarf and Hahra, formerly manned by Iranian forces.

The number of Egyptians had increased regularly since the troops began arriving in Oman in January, he said, adding that they were backed by military planes.

The front launched a guerrilla war in the Dhofar region of Oman in the late sixties and early seventies. Iran sent in troops to back the sultan.

The spokesman said the front "categorically rejects such military presence in our country." Replying to a question, he added that the front had no alternative but to resort to "self-defence against intervention, irrespective of whether this is foreign or Arab."

Mr. Hussein accused the United States and Britain of "reinforcing their military presence" in the sultanate. He criticised remarks made by U.S. Defence Secretary Harold Brown on possible American military intervention in the Middle East to protect U.S. interests.

Referring to the recent visit to the Gulf by Britain's Queen Elizabeth, he said it "was in fact aimed at consolidating British

Aid to Africa

World News Briefs

Missing diamond merchant found strangled

NEW YORK, March 13 (R)—An Indian diamond merchant disappeared in New York last Friday with up to \$200,000 worth of gems has been found dead inside a sleeping bag in Pennsylvania police said yesterday. The body of 27-year-old Mr. Satya Gupta, Jaipur, India, was discovered by a man walking his dog along a mountain road 140 kilometres from New York City. A man examiner said Mr. Gupta had been strangled. A second Manish gem dealer — 71-year-old Mr. Martin Pavetzky — who disappeared two days before Mr. Gupta and was believed to be carrying \$500,000 in diamonds, is still missing. Police said Mr. Gupta reported missing on Friday by his elder brother. Mr. Gupta is two of his brothers in New York eight months ago and had been in a small apartment in what is known as New York's "diamond district." Mr. Rameshwar Lal Mawar, also a gem merchant, investigators his brother had a business appointment the day of his disappearance and was carrying gems worth between \$100 and \$200,000.

Japanese fishermen slaughter more dolphins

IKI ISLAND, Japan, March 13 (R)—Fishermen on this tiny up-ern Japanese island today used knives to slaughter about 100 phins they said were threatening their livelihood by eating too valuable fish. In the past three months, the fishermen have killed about 600 dolphins after driving them into shallow bays, and their carcasses for food and edible oil, the Katsunoto Fish Cooperative said. The Iki Island fishermen, who last year came international notury by killing about 1,000 dolphins, received offers totalling \$500 from two environmental organisations to stop killing the dolphins. Last week fishery officials used recorded voices of killer whales and angry humans in an attempt to scare dolphins away from traditional fishing grounds off Iki Island. The results are being studied.

Pope receives invitation for Poland visit

VATICAN CITY, March 13 (R)—Pope John Paul has received formal invitation to visit Poland, his native country, on the occasion of the 900th anniversary of the martyrdom of Saint Stanislaw, Vatican said yesterday. The official announcement did not mention the date of the Papal visit — the first by a Pope to a communist country — but clearly linked it with the anniversary of the patron saint. The Polish Government announced on Monday that Pope would visit Poland from June 2 to 10, about the 900th anniversary. Poland's rulers insisted on a later date to avoid his presence from giving the celebration too much significance. The saint, a former Archbishop of Cracow, was killed on the orders of Polish King Boleslaw.

Gloria Swanson promises candid memoirs

NEW YORK, March 13 (R)—Silent-film star Miss Gloria Swanson has agreed to write a candid autobiography set for publication in 1980, her publishers said yesterday. The 60-year-old actress, at a contract-signing session at Random House yesterday, said the as-yet-entitled memoir would be completely candid. "I've given my memoirs far more thought than any of my movies," she said. "You can't divorce a book," the six-times-married Miss Swanson said.

Celebrations honour 'father of relativity'

LONDON, March 13 (R)—Mr. Albert Einstein would have been 100 years old tomorrow, and the world will honour him with celebrations the scope and variety of which would no doubt have embarrassed the father of relativity.

Mr. Einstein, who died on April 18, 1955 at the age of 76, was a shy man who treasured his privacy so much that he ordered his body cremated and the ashes scattered secretly.

Special postage stamps bearing his fair-fringed, lined face will be issued in the United States, West Germany and other nations. British and American television stations are planning spectaculars on his life and thought.

China is publishing books and articles on his physics and philosophy. Japanese tourists

have signed up for special pilgrimages to places where he lived and worked in Europe. The U.S. National Academy of Science will unveil in Washington next month a four-metre high bronze statue, costing over \$1.5 million of the man who wanted no headstone.

East and West Germany have adopted strikingly different attitudes to celebrating the man: East Germany is loudly proclaiming him as its own, while West German President Walter Scheel has raised the issue of whether it is legitimate for Germans to hold celebrations in the physicist's name.

He said it was possible that the scientist would object to the current celebrations there, and he quoted Mr. Einstein as saying in 1949 that he had an overpowering

aversion to being involved in anything representing German national life.

By contrast, the entire communist government took special commemorative measures for Mr. Einstein in East Feb. 28. East Germany claims physicist on the basis of his political comments and his ships.

In the Soviet Union, the Academy of Sciences is organising a series of meetings, conferences and lectures, and a special book being published on relativity.

For the Soviet Union, Mr. Einstein was not only a great scientist but also a figure with political merits. Today he is praised as an opponent of the United States development and use of nuclear weapons after World War

Rhodesia reports air raids into Mozambique

SALISBURY, March 13 (R)—Rhodesian aircraft yesterday attacked Patriotic Front guerrilla targets deep inside southern Mozambique, military headquarters reported.

It was the fifth attack into a Black state announced by the transitional government in three weeks. It is seeking to clear the ground for a one-man, one-vote election in April, which the Patriotic Front has pledged to smash.

A military communiqué said a number of air attacks were made yesterday against the Zimbabwe African National Liberation Army (ZANLA) of Patriotic Front joint leader Mr. Robert Mugabe.

"These strikes were directed at an arms depot in Chocue and a ZANLA headquarters and holding barracks in Barragem in the Gaza Province," it stated. "All aircraft returned safely to base."

Military sources said the targets were between 200 and 250 kilometres from Rhodesia's eastern border. The communiqué gave no indication of casualties or damage caused.

Rhodesia's recent series of raids into Black Africa, in which Patriotic Front bases in Zambia, Mozambique and Angola have been attacked since Feb. 17, is said by informed sources to be

aimed at pre-empting an expected guerrilla assault to thwart the April elections.

Several hundred insurgents are believed here to have been killed or wounded in the attacks, which are also aimed at destroying training facilities, disrupting lines of supply and damaging morale.

Military headquarters also claimed yesterday that security forces were continuing to strike hard at guerrillas operating inside Rhodesia.

Turkish economic crisis was focus of talks, says NATO commander

BRUSSELS, March 13 (R)—NATO Commander General Alexander Haig returned yesterday from a surprise visit to Ankara where Turkey's economic crisis and Greece's return to full membership in the alliance were reported to have been key topics.

Western alliance sources in Brussels said he may have hinted to Turkish leaders that Western financial and economic aid would be more forthcoming if Turkey softened its opposition to Greece's full return to the pact.

While the sources reported Greek NATO membership was

the main reason for the visit, the general himself said in Ankara that his talks were mainly on the Turkish economic crisis.

General Haig's meeting with Premier Bulent Ecevit and military leaders underlined NATO's concern that Turkey's annoyance over failure to receive aid from its allies could lead it into closer relations with the Soviet Union and a more neutralist foreign policy.

General Haig, due to retire from his post as supreme commander in Europe in June, told reporters in Ankara that Mr. Ecevit was concerned about the lack of urgent Western aid he has been seeking for several months.

The general recently met Greek armed forces chief General Ioannis Damos in Naples and has been playing an active part in trying to bridge the gap between Turkey and Greece on NATO's southern flank.

Greece pulled out of NATO's military structure in 1974 in protest against the Turkish invasion of Cyprus that year and NATO's failure to stop it.

Last May Greece offered to return under a special status enabling its armed forces to come under NATO command only in case of an East-West conflict.

Turkish opposition to this stemmed from its quarrel with Greece over control of the Aegean Sea's territorial waters and allocation of the potentially rich continental shelf.

The Greco-Turkish issue has arisen anew against the background of the revolution in Iran, bordering Turkey, and the announced intention of both Iran and Pakistan to withdraw from the pro-West Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO). Turkey is also a CENTO member.

WHO takes serious look at 'primitive' medicines

ATLANTA, Georgia, March 13 (AP)—A World Health Organisation (WHO) research team, noticing that women in Tibet have a relatively low fertility rate, set out to trace the cause. They found it in a green pea that is a staple of the Tibetan diet. A chemical in the pea apparently is responsible.

That kind of discovery has caused Mr. Julian Gold, a scientist at the Federal Centre for Disease Control here, and researchers in more than 15 other countries to study the legitimate roles that herbal preparations midwives and even witch doctors can play in meeting the world's health needs.

Mr. Gold's research is part of a large study of traditional medicine underway now at the WHO, based in Geneva.

"Two-thirds of the world's population uses traditional medicine for primary health care," said Mr. Gold. "And if we can't provide health care by conventional medicine, we'll have to find another way."

Mr. Gold said there are some problems in using herbs for medical care, including cultural factors which influence an herb's effectiveness in some societies.

This re-examination of primitive medicine is part of a revival of interest in holistic medicine. The term "holistic" is derived from the word "whole" and refers to a medical approach that attempts to treat the mind and the body.

The Tibetan pea is an example, Mr. Gold said. "They tried it (the pea) on Indian women and it didn't work. That's what holistic medicine is all about," he said. The pea fits a lifestyle in Tibet but could not be forced on the Indian culture.

Holistic theories began to gain credence in modern times when WHO was begun as an arm of the United Nations.

"In September 1947, the U.N. defined what they believed health was. They said good health is not

merely absence of disease and infirmity but also is the physical, emotional and well-being of a person," said Mr. Jack Lapatra of the Georgia Institute of Technology. Mr. Lapatra is the author of "Healing: The Coming Revolution in Holistic Medicine" and a health systems analyst at Georgia Tech.

In a recent report, WHO reaffirmed that stand, stating, "No health service starts in a vacuum. The people, the healers and the diseases are already there, and the priority attached to health varies, depending on the communities' other problems."

"If health services are to be provided to the people of the world by the year 2000, it will be necessary to find alternative approaches to meet the basic health needs of developing countries."

Mr. Gold said those needs have intensified as the cost of health care has skyrocketed and Western drug companies have failed to find more efficient and less expensive new drugs.

The use of midwives also is of special interest to the researchers. "The traditional birth attendant is often an accomplished herbalist, and infusions of herbs are frequently given to improve general health during pregnancy as well as to relieve discomfort," the WHO report said.

Faith healing—which is believed to be the most potent ingredient of witch doctoring—also is being reviewed, said Mr. Gold.

Traditional medicine has a rich heritage in Africa, Southeast Asia, the Western Pacific, the Eastern Mediterranean, and the developing cultures of the Americas. Mr. Gold said the acceptance of such medicine could have a far-reaching effect on the United States, where herbs and hollism are little known and sometimes feared.

Middle East oil revenues are being added to Western aid to exploit the vast agricultural potential of Sudan, despite the lack of infrastructure.

By John Worrall

KHARTOUM — In Arab North Africa and the Middle East there is a haunting fear of hunger, notwithstanding the vast mineral riches of the area. Oil gushes out of Arab wells, but they cannot fill their larders with home-grown food. Countries like Saudi Arabia and Kuwait not only have to feed their indigenous populations, but armies of demanding expatriates as well.

Food security has become an obsession, especially in Egypt, where an exploding population, with increasing demands, is crammed into the fertile strip along the Nile, with nowhere else to go except the arid desert.

That is why the eyes of the Middle East are fixed on Sudan, which, with an area of one million square miles, many of them extremely fertile, has a vast food potential. The White and Blue Niles afford an unlimited supply of water for irrigation and power.

That is why the Arab states are throwing billions of dollars into Sudan's development. It is a giant food insurance for the future, a buffer against the kind of social

and political unrest that hunger brings.

Agricultural projects already on stream or being developed are the highest of their kind in Africa. Wheat, sorghum, millet, groundnuts, rice, all kinds of vegetables and meat are being produced in the fertile plains of one of the most potentially productive areas in the developing world.

A visiting Canadian economic mission reported: "If properly organised, the Sudan could feed one-third of the world."

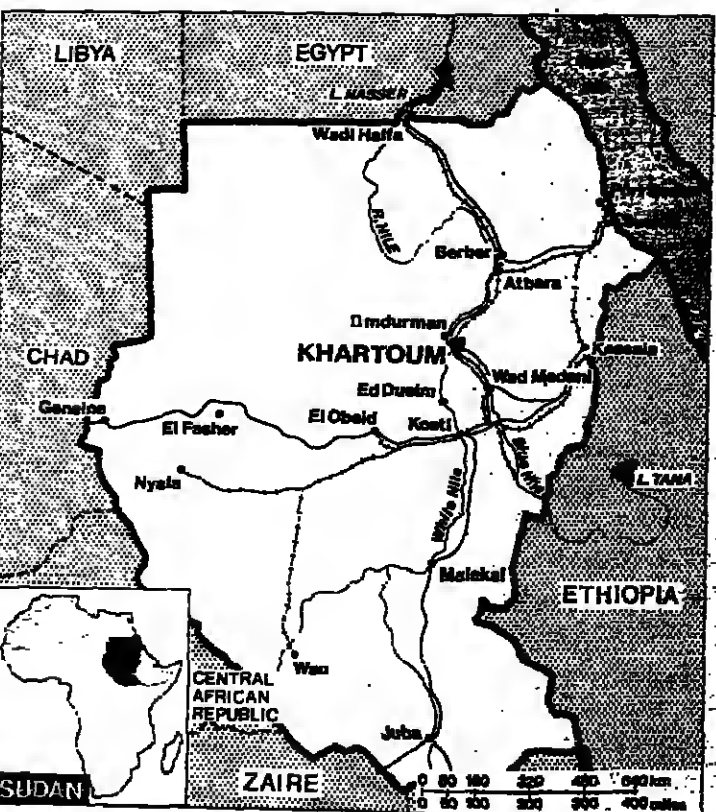
Sudan is having to pay the price of this surging development, which is costing \$582.4 million this year and cost \$881.6 million in 1977-78. It has huge balance of payments deficits from importing machinery and equipment, mounting foreign debts and growing inflation. But development is Sudan's big gamble to bring itself into the 20th Century, and so much has been staked in money and hopes that it could not be stopped even if anybody wanted to. President Nimeiry and his government have staked their reputation too, although there are many critics among conservative

bankers and economists who ask whether it is all going too fast for Sudan's capabilities.

Some very serious problems have to be solved, not the least being the bottleneck in the country's transport infrastructure. Goods still have to grope their way through congestion and red tape at Port Sudan, the nation's only port. The rehabilitation of the ancient railway system is taking a very long time. The tarring of the road between Khartoum and Port Sudan is still unfinished. However, the Sudanese have not quite found their way into the modern world, unlike the Egyptians.

It is no secret that Egypt is pushing hard to create an economic union with Sudan so that, among other things, they can infiltrate some of their expert agricultural technologists and educated unemployed into the development schemes of their southern neighbour, with whom they share the waters of the Nile. For the Egyptians, the sooner agricultural production comes on stream in Sudan's breadbasket, the less they have to worry about the dangerous prospects of starvation among the fellahen.

The size and potential of Sudan has always lent itself to great farming schemes, going back to the Gezira cotton project on the Blue Nile 50 years ago. With two million acres it is now the biggest farm under one management in the world. The need for food in the region has created great changes in Gezira, which now is more than half under food crops such as



wheat, sorghum, millet, rice, groundnuts, and assorted vegetables. Some 500,000 labourers are imported every year to work on the 100,000 tenant farms. Gezira still dwarfs other and newer huge projects in Sudan, such as the Rahad project, also on the Blue Nile, which is bringing 300,000 acres of fertile land under irrigation in the first phase to settle more than 100,000 people. The Kuwaitis, the Saudis, U.S.

million, the originators, the fish firm Lomho, were pulled and Sudanese managers put Most of the money came Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and J. Cane is already being grown 18,000 acres and by 1981 Ke is expected to produce at the of 400,000 tons a year.

The Middle East also needs tein, and in a typically big Sudan is busy developing a producing project, the 6 scheme. This is costing \$45 lion, and is being financed by World Bank, the British bank group Guinness Peat. Arab dollars and Sudanese inter.

The main object is to es processed meat to the Middle by airtight. Sudanese herds is hoped, will bring in 40 head of cattle and 140,000 sheep every year, which will be late before slaughter and process a huge plant near Khartoum: gated fields will produce 40 for the animals.

Other big farm schemes the pipeline, heavily financed the Arabs as part of the pie make Sudan the chief food supplier to the Middle East. Some rationed areas, some under a station from one or other of Niles. All need very big irrigation, technology and West skills, now being provided America, Britain and the Money seems to be no objection Arab gamble to provide selves with food security.

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